



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

POST OFFICE BOX 6638 * PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638

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Direct Inquiries to:
Ofc. Frank Valenzuela
602-223-2310 Office
602-202-4926 Pager

DPS takes second place in highest category of National Law Enforcement Challenge

*Visit DPS' website at www.azdps.gov to view the agency's
illustrated, award-winning contest application*

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world's oldest and most prestigious group of law enforcement executives, has recognized the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) as the second place winner in the elite Championship Category of the 2004 National Law Enforcement Challenge.

Several representatives from DPS, including agency Director Roger L. Vanderpool, were formally recognized for the monumental accomplishment at the 112th Annual IACP Conference in Miami, Florida on September, 27, 2005.

The National Law Enforcement Challenge, operated by the IACP in partnership with the National Sheriffs Association, is a national highway safety competition developed under a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) which is designed to encourage departments to step up enforcement in the target areas of impaired driving, occupant protection, and speed enforcement.

Most law enforcement agencies competing in the National Law Enforcement Challenge, which has become the "Super Bowl" of inter-agency traffic safety competitions, are matched up against agencies of similar size and type.

DPS, however, competed in the event's elite Championship Category this year against the "best of the best" due to the agency's first place victory in last year's event for State Police Category 4 (1001-2500 officers).

Because all winners from the previous year's twenty-one contest categories were placed into the Championship Class, DPS competed against some agencies that have substantially larger budgets and more manpower to deploy towards their traffic safety efforts.

Despite the challenge, DPS still managed to rise above nearly every national

member of the competition due to the agency's tireless and innovative work towards reducing motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities on Arizona's highways.

To learn more about the effective traffic safety programs DPS deployed and then documented to take second place in this year's National Law Enforcement Challenge, visit DPS' website at www.azdps.gov and click on the link entitled, "2004 IACP Law Enforcement Challenge." By clicking on the document, you will be able to view the actual illustrated application DPS submitted to the IACP to capture this prestigious award.

The first place winner in this year's Championship Category, which DPS was just a few points shy of overtaking, was the California Highway Patrol.

All law enforcement agencies competing in the event submitted a lengthy award application like the one on DPS' website to the IACP early in the year.

The applications were judged on six essential categories with emphasis placed on how an agency's work within each category has improved traffic safety within the agency's jurisdiction. The competition was judged on the following categories: Policy Statements, Officer Training, Public Information and Education Campaigns, Enforcement Activity, Program Effectiveness, and Quality of Application Documents.

The DPS was awarded second place in the Championship Category after an extensive review by a judging panel in Washington D.C. comprised of law enforcement representatives and traffic safety professionals. The panel referred the top candidates for final approval to the IACP Highway Safety Committee which signed off on DPS' award-winning application.

The IACP also presented awards to individual law enforcement officers at their annual conference in Miami, Florida and one of their most prestigious individual awards was presented to DPS Major William R. Reutter.

Reutter, a 36-year DPS veteran, was given the IACP's "J. Stannard Baker Award for Highway Safety" which is presented to individuals who have made significant outstanding lifetime contributions to highway safety.